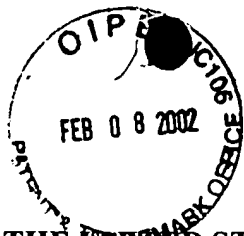


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Applicant : McCarthy et al.

Appl. No. : 09/754,949

Filed : January 4, 2001

For : METHODS FOR
IDENTIFYING INHIBITORS
OF NEURONAL
DEGENERATION

Examiner : O. Chernyshev

) Group Art Unit: 1646

) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
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) and Trademark Office, PO Box 2327
) Arlington, VA 22202, on

February 5, 2002
(Date)

Ginger R. Dreger, Reg. No. 33,055

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on December 6, 2001, setting a one-month term for reply. The present Response is accompanied by a request for a one-month extension of time, setting the term to February 6, 2002. Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows and that the Examiner consider the subsequent remarks.

In the claims:

Please replace claims 1-4, 6, 9 and 17 with the following amended claims:

1. (Amended) A method for identifying inhibitors of neuronal degeneration comprising:

(A) (1) cotransfecting eukaryotic host cells expressing a presenilin protein (PS), with a polynucleotide encoding a Par-4 polypeptide, and an NF- κ B dependent reporter construct, (2) exposing the cotransfected cells to a candidate molecule, and (3) monitoring the ability of said candidate molecule to induce NF- κ B activation; or

B1
Sub C4

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